

The Shepherd's Witness

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Luke 2:8-20 NIV

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. [9] An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. [10] But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. [11] Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. [12] This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

[13] Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

*[14] "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."*

[15] When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

[16] So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. [17] When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, [18] and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. [19] But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. [20] The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

What Did The Angel Say???

1. The Angel Said, **The Good News is for ALL PEOPLE!!!** (Vs. 10)

-The news the angel was about to share was not just for a select few.

The angel said He had good news for everyone.

ASK: What Good News is for everyone???

Answer: The news of Christ's birth!!!

The News of Christ was for everyone. At the time that Jesus was born, He came for everyone. And it's still true today. Christ's birth was good news over 2000 years ago and it's still good news for all people today.

ASK: Why was Jesus' birth good news for everyone???

2. Christ Was Born To Be Savior and Lord (Vs. 11)

Christ is Savior. Jesus was the best thing to ever happen to the world. He came as a child, small and weak, but God would raise Him up to be the **Savior** of the World. I've said it before, "Jesus, was born to die!!!" He was destined to save the world by giving His life up for us. Only He could save us from our sin. Only Jesus could have been the payment for our sin, because only He was sinless. Christ was born to rescue us from darkness, to open our eyes to see the awesome things of God. He was born to be the Savior to anybody, anytime, who would believe in Him!!!

Christ is Lord. Even though Jesus had just been born, the angel was already declaring His Lordship. The angel was saying, "Hey, shepherds, Jesus is the Savior of All, and *He is also the Lord of all.*" Jesus is the Lord of all creation, and He will be Lord of all mankind, whether they choose Him now, or bow before Him in eternity.

Philip. 2:9-11 NIV

*Therefore God exalted him (Jesus) to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
[10] that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
[11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

Jesus will be the Lord of all mankind. Every knee will bow in the day of judgment, but He will only be the Savior to those that receive Him in this life.

IMPORTANT: Some people have the idea that you pray a little prayer and ask Jesus to be your Savior, and then you're cool with God. That's **Not** quite how it works. Here's the catch: You can't accept Jesus as your Savior, without also making Him your Lord. When you ask Jesus into your life, that's only the first step. Most of you here have already asked Jesus to be your Savior. The real question is this, **is Jesus truly your LORD???**

A Lord has absolute power over His subjects. A LORD is often used in reference to a King. When we make Christ the LORD of our lives, it means that we are saying to Him, "Jesus, you are in control. I'm your servant. Do what you want with me."

So, the angel told the shepherds, "Jesus has been born. He will be Lord and Savior, this is news for everybody!!!"

What Did The Shepherds DO???

1. They Went In A Hurry To Jesus!!! (Vs. 15-16)

The shepherd's didn't wait any time. They went right away to see what the angel told them about. They went right to Jesus.

If only we wanted to get close to Jesus like the shepherds did. Think about it. They went QUICKLY to see Him.

Do you hurry at any opportunity to get closer to Jesus???

I hope you do. What about when it's time for a church service. Maybe its youth, or what about Sunday School. What about Sunday morning's and Sunday night's. What about when there's a prayer service, or a special revival???

Do you make sure to get there???

Are you in a hurry to come see Jesus???

Those are opportunities to learn more about Jesus. Those are times you can run to Jesus. Don't miss them!!!

What about on your own time???

Do you read your Bible to see what God wants to tell you every day???

Do you pray every day???

These are ways to seek the Christ Child. Seek Him. I challenge you to seek Jesus every day.

2. They Spread The Word (reread vs. 17)

The angel had told the shepherd the good news was for everybody. The shepherds had the right idea. Instead of going and seeing Jesus, and then just going back to the fields, they shared what they had seen and heard. The shepherds got to see the newborn Christ child and were told by an angel about Him. Then on top of that they heard a whole choir of angels belting out a song of praise to God. No wonder they shared it.

Let me ask you... What have you seen God do in your life???

What awesome things have you heard, not from angels, but from God Himself!!!

Think for a moment about the things God has done for you. Has He saved you from sin???

Has Jesus become your Savior???

Is Jesus your Lord???

Expond...

Now let me ask you... **Are you telling other people about the Christ???**

Never Forget. Jesus Christ, is good news for EVERYONE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Respond/ Altar Time:

1. Is Jesus your Savior? 2. Is Jesus your Lord? 3. Who have you told?

